

CITY OF CHICOPEE



SEWER BACKUP PREVENTION & COST SHARING PROGRAM



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SEWER BACKUP PREVENTION & COST SHARING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WHAT IS IT?

The Sewer Backup Prevention and Cost Sharing Program provides reimbursements to eligible residential, commercial and business property owners for work done to reduce the risk of sanitary sewer backups into their homes and businesses.

The reimbursement program is effective starting with the adoption of an enabling Ordinance and funding by the City Council and will be awarded on a first-come first approved basis until available funds have been depleted.

Property owners with service connections to the City's sewer system who are at a moderate risk of experiencing backups can receive a reimbursement of 75% of eligible expenses, up to \$2,000, for piping modifications to prevent sewage backups from the City's sewer system during rain events.* Eligibility is determined by the City and the work must be approved by the City before work is started. Reimbursements will be limited to one per address.

*Additional work done to separate storm drain leaders, roof leaders and gutters, sump pumps, and yard drains from the sewer also qualifies for reimbursement and may be required if backflow prevention modifications are completed.

WHAT IS IT NOT?

This program is **Not** intended to address backups in homes caused by the following:

- ☒ Overland surface flooding not emanating from the City's sewer system
- ☒ Blockages in private service laterals or City sewer mainlines (root growth, for example)

AM I ELIGIBLE?

If you are a property owner of Chicopee, and your property is connected to the City's combined sewer system, you may be eligible.

If you believe you are eligible and are interested in participating in the program, please call Water Pollution Control at (413)-594-3585 to schedule an inspection with the City to confirm your eligibility.



HOW TO APPLY

1. Contact the Wastewater Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) at (413)-594-3585 or email qlonczak@chicopeema.gov to schedule an inspection to determine if your property is eligible.
2. After being deemed eligible, you should make your best efforts to obtain three quotes from licensed plumbers or contractors (with written proposals detailing the scope of work).
3. Submit the following documents to the WPCF at 80 Medina Street:
 - Forms A and B (attached)
 - Quotes for the work (highlight the selected quote)
4. Quotes and written proposals will be reviewed and will either be “approved”, “approved as noted”, “returned for revisions”, or “rejected”. If and when the City approves the application, work can be started.
5. Plumbing work must comply with MA Uniform State Plumbing Code and City Ordinances and Codes. A plumbing permit must also be obtained for any plumbing work to be completed, and must be obtained separately through the Building Department.
6. Upon completion of the work, contact the WPCF at (413)-594-3585 to schedule an inspection.
7. Once the completed work has been inspected and approved, submit the following documents to the WPCF:
 - Copy of itemized invoice from the contractor who did the work.
 - The Request for Reimbursement - Form C (attached) (attached)
8. The property owner will receive the City’s reimbursement check by mail approximately 30 days following the Request for Reimbursement- Form C is submitted.



REIMBURSABLE COSTS

ELIGIBLE COSTS

The following costs are eligible for reimbursement:

For outdoor work:

- Locating, excavating, and exposing the house sewer lateral sewer.
- Installing a compliant check valve and shutoff valve on the existing sewer lateral
- Cutting and capping roof leaders that are tied into the sewer system (if applicable)
- Pipe work associated with separating sump pumps, downspouts, exterior perimeter drains (drain tiles), and yard drains from the sewer system (if applicable)
- Grass seeding to restore disrupted grass/lawns
- Permit fees

For indoor work:

- Concrete floor trenching and repairs
- Work associated with separating sump pump from the sewer (if applicable)
- Installing a compliant check valve(s) and a shut-off valve combination
- Installing a pump and making associated piping modifications to raise elevation of sewer lateral
- Plumbing permit fees

NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

The following costs will **Not** be eligible for reimbursement:

- Use of materials that do not meet the requirements of the City Ordinances and Codes, and MA Uniform State Plumbing Code (248 CMR 10)
- Ancillary property owner improvements not necessary to provide sewer back-up protection
- Repairing sections of the sewer lateral unrelated to the installation of the backflow prevention system.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Piping modifications can be made to reduce backups into a property. Installing check valves, pump system, and/or raising the elevation of the sewer lateral in the basement to bring it overhead can reduce backups caused by heavy rain events into a combined sewer system.

WHAT IS A CHECK VALVE/ SHUT OFF VALVE INSTALLATION AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

A check valve is typically a “flapper” valve that is installed on the lateral sewer line that connects your house to the City’s sewer line. In some cases, a smaller check valve can be installed on a single plumbing fixture (i.e. a set tub) in lieu of the larger flapper valve.

When the sewer line in the street is flowing under normal conditions, the flapper valve remains open in the direction of flow. In the event of heavy rain causing a backup into your service pipe lateral, the flapper valve closes and deters sewage from the mainline from back flowing into the /building. During a heavy rain event, the flapper valve also blocks sanitary flow from discharging from your /building until the surcharged conditions subsides. Care should be taken to reduce water usage during heavy rains to prevent a backup into your /building from your own a sanitary sewer flow.

Check valves typically need to be maintained and inspected periodically to insure proper operation. **It is the property owner’s responsibility to maintain the check valve.**

A manually operated shutoff valve must be installed along with the check valve to provide a way to manually stop the flow if needed.

WHAT IS AN OVERHEAD SEWER SYSTEM?

Sewer backups typically occur when the water level in the sewer system becomes higher than the sewer piping in your basement during a heavy rain. If your sewer piping is located below the floor of your basement, an option for reducing backups from the City’s sewer system is to raise the sewer piping overhead. This option may require you to install an ejector pump to pump sewage from basement fixtures up to the overhead piping.

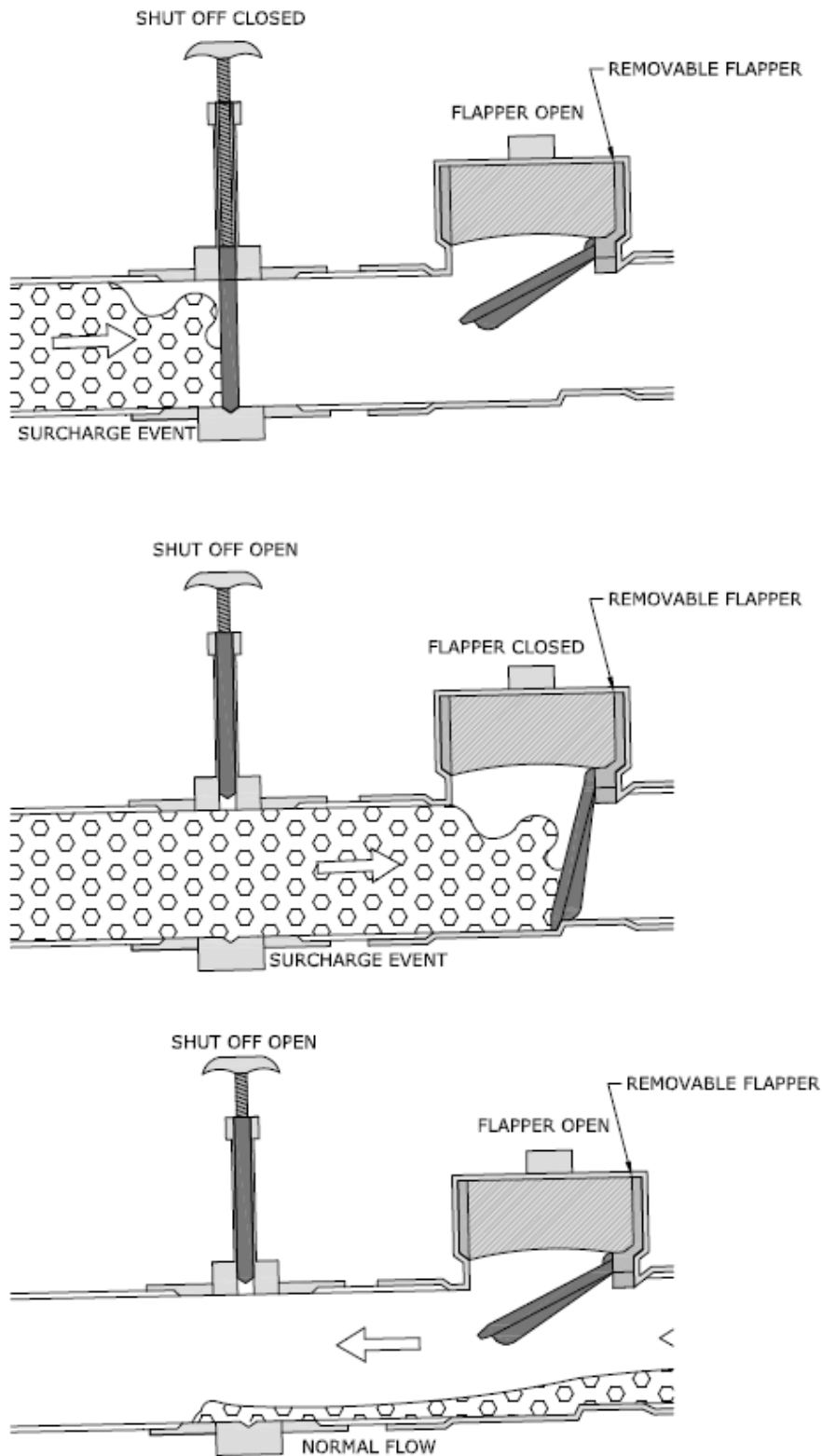
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REDUCE INFLOW AND INFILTRATION?

The reduction of wet weather and groundwater flows into the combined sewer system reduces the volume of flow in the City’s combined sewers and ultimately into the City’s wastewater treatment plant. This reduction in volume reduces the costs associated with treating sewage, and reduces the potential for overloading and surcharging the combined sewer system that may lead to sewage backups.

Sump pumps, roof leaders, yard drains and exterior perimeter drains are significant sources of inflow and infiltration. Disconnecting of these sources, is reimbursable through this program and may be required to prevent interior flooding.



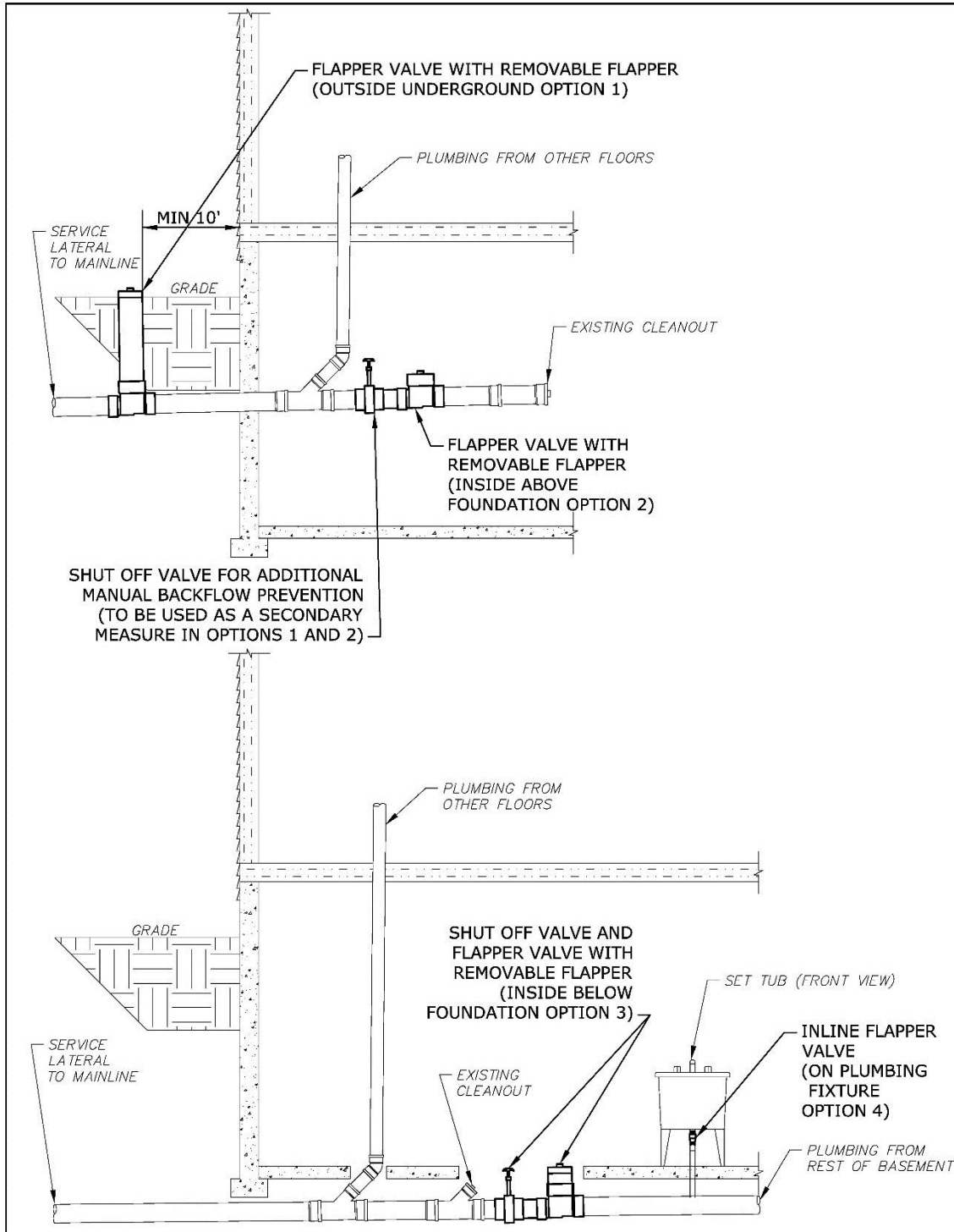
CHECK VALVE & SHUTOFF VALVE





EXAMPLE VALVE INSTALLATIONS

Below are four common types of backwater check valve installations (outside underground, inside above foundation, inside below foundation, and in-line on a plumbing fixture).

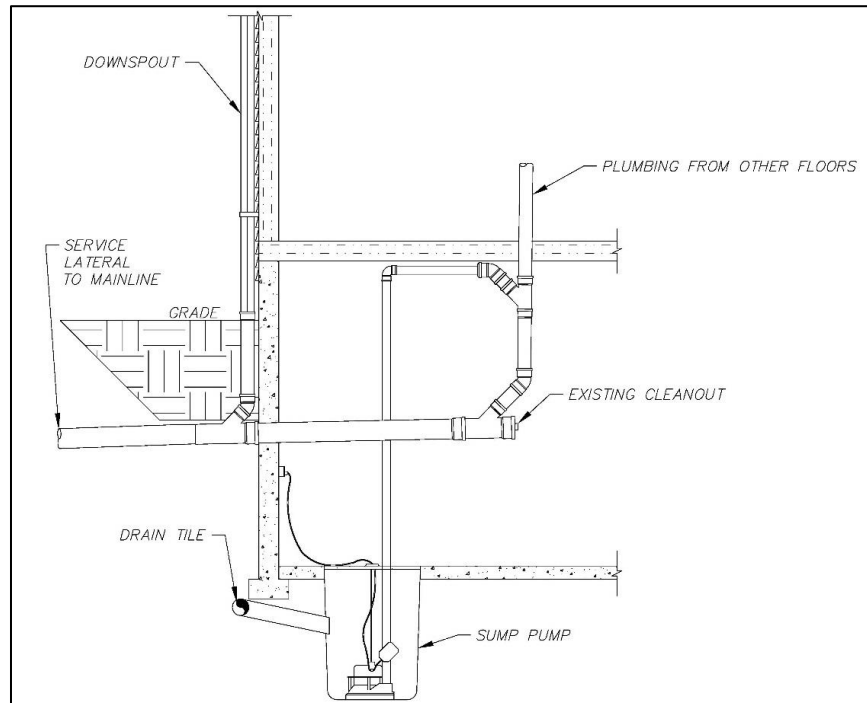




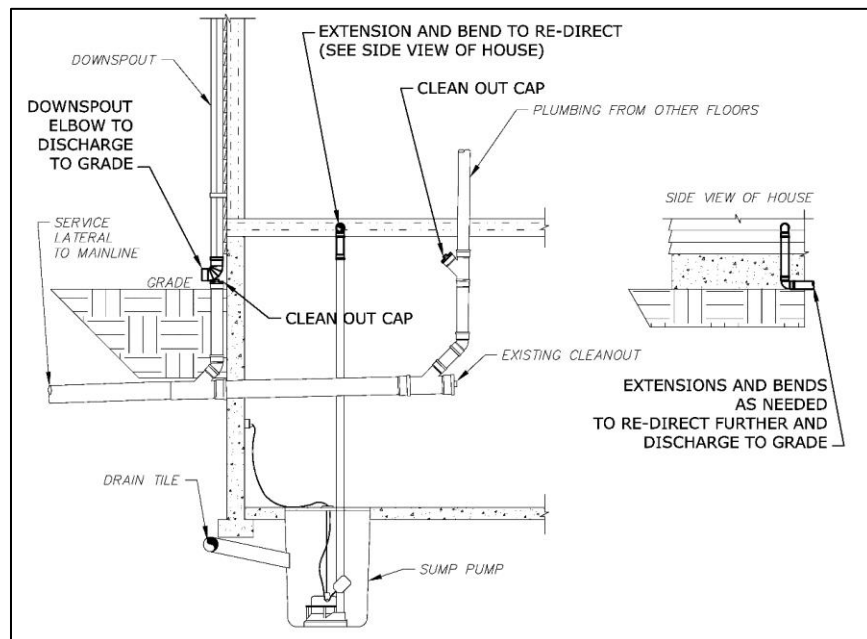
EXAMPLE PLUMBING MODIFICATIONS

Plumbing modifications may include disconnecting downspouts and sump pumps that are connected to the sewer service, and/or raising the elevation of basement plumbing.

Existing Plumbing



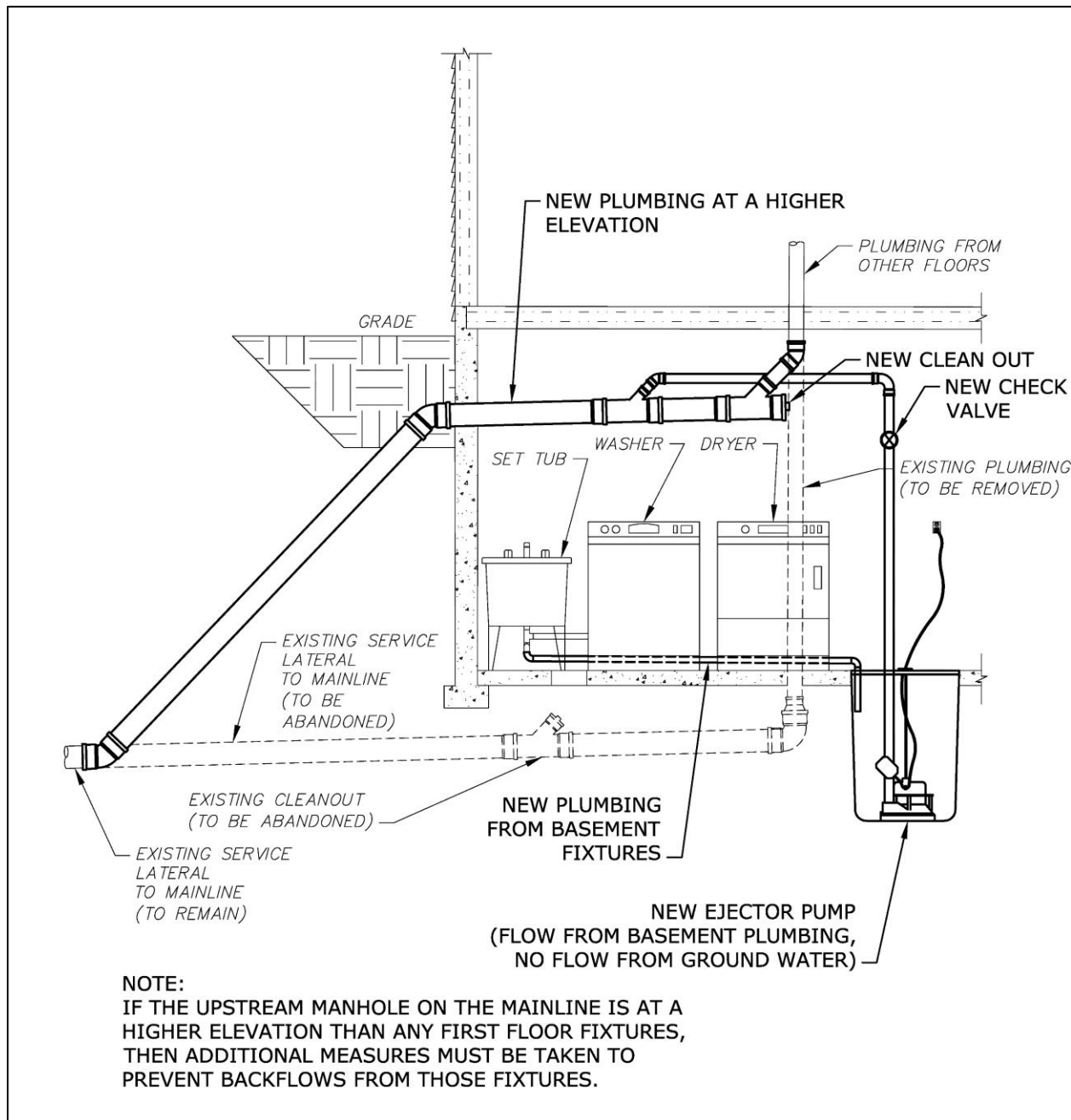
Sump and Downspout Plumbing Modifications





EXAMPLE PLUMBING MODIFICATIONS CONT...

Plumbing Modifications to Raise Elevation of Basement Plumbing





SEWER BACKUP PREVENTION COST SHARING PROGRAM APPLICATION: FORM A

City of Chicopee Water Pollution Control Facility
80 Medina St, Chicopee, MA 01013
(413) 594-3585

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

Date you purchased this property (Month & Year): _____

Briefly describe the planned scope of work: _____

Discharges to*:

Do your downspouts connect underground? No Yes _____

Does your home have a yard drain? No Yes _____

Does your home have an exterior perimeter drain/drain tiles? No Yes _____

Does your home have a sump pump? No Yes _____

**Work done to separate these sources from the sewer will also be eligible for reimbursement.*

How many backups events have you experienced in this home? _____

Plumber/Contractor Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Value of Quote for Work (\$): _____

☐ MUST SUBMIT PROPOSAL AND DRAWING



SEWER BACKUP PREVENTION COST SHARING PROGRAM APPLICATION: FORM A (CONTINUED)

-----TO BE COMPLETED BY OTHERS-----

	Name	Date
Eligibility Approval:	_____	_____
Application Approved:	_____	_____
Application Approved As noted:	_____	_____
Comments:	_____ _____	
Not Approved:	_____	_____
Reason for non-approval:	_____	_____
Date Returned:	_____	_____



APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES & AGREEMENT

FORM B

The property owner (applicant) accepts responsibility for completing the work, the quality of the work, and maintenance or repairs required. This work is completed by the property owner and is the property owner's responsibility. Backflow preventers and pumps often require regular maintenance to work properly, therefore property owners should familiarize themselves with any products installed.

Please be aware:

- Applicant must use the forms provided.
- Applicant assumes all responsibility for compliance with the program.
- Applicant assumes all responsibility for completion of work.
- Applicant assumes responsibility of all cleaning and maintenance of the installed system.
- Applicant shall not find the City liable for system failures, future claims related to unacceptable workmanship, or any damage resulting from sanitary sewer backups or flooding, or any claims of any nature regarding the work of the contractor.
- Applicant acknowledges that no system is fail proof and any work performed pursuant to the program does not guarantee the elimination of all risk of sanitary sewer backups.
- Applicant acknowledges that participation in the program is voluntary.

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AGREEMENT: FORM B (CONTINUED)

I understand and agree that the City of Chicopee established the Sewer Backup Prevention Reimbursement Program to assist property owners in protecting their home/business from flooding due to sewer backups. The program provides a cost share of 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum reimbursement of \$2,000.

Prior to the installation of any plumbing work, quotes for the proposed work shall be submitted to the City for review and approval. No work shall commence until City's approval is obtained. The City shall be notified to inspect the work once complete.

Reimbursement of eligible items will be made after the work is completed, inspected and approved by the City. A completed "Request for Reimbursement" form must be completed and submitted with a detailed invoice.

Liability- The City shall have no liability for any defective work or other damage, injury and/or loss on account of any act or omission of the Contractor in the performance of the work. The Property owner shall make any claim for such matters directly against the Contractor or Contractor's insurance carrier. The Property owner hereby agrees to indemnify and hold City harmless against any and all claims and further covenants not to sue the City for any and all claims, as no system is absolutely fail safe.

Disclaimer- The program is designed to substantially reduce the risk of basement backups. However, there is always some risk of basement backups as a result of unexpected sewer collapse, obstruction, power failure, extreme environmental conditions or other unforeseen factors. All footing drains, storm water tiles, perimeter drains, and other storm or ground water systems must be disconnected from the sanitary system. Storm water/ground water discharges shall be disposed of properly.

Breach- If the Property owner fails to comply with all requirements of this Agreement or to complete installation as provided in this Agreement, the City shall have no obligation to reimburse the Property owner.

I understand and agree with all the above statements and agree to comply accordingly.

Property Owner (Printed Name)

Signature

Date

Property Address



REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT- FORM C

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date work was completed: _____

Plumbing permit number issued: _____

(attach copy of permit)

Contractor who performed work: _____

(attach copy of Contract Invoice)

Total cost of eligible expenses: _____

Total amount of reimbursement requested: _____

(75% of eligible expenses not to exceed a maximum reimbursement of \$2,000)

Owner Certification

I, _____ am the property owner of the premises indicated above and I certify that all the information contained on the Request for Reimbursement Form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Plumber Contractor Certification

I, _____ of _____ certify that all work completed under this program has been performed in accordance with the Sewer Backup Prevention Reimbursement Program and all applicable City Ordinances and Codes, and 248 CMR 10.

Signature

Date

-----CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE-----



REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT- FORM C

(CONTINUED)

City Certification

As an authorized agent of the City of Chicopee who administers the Sewer Backup Prevention Reimbursement Program, I certify that I have reviewed and received all the necessary paperwork associated with the above mentioned program, and found the Applicant in compliance with the provisions of the Program. Therefore, I recommend the reimbursement amount be paid.

Signature

Date

Total Eligible Cost:

Requested Eligible Cost: _____

Approved Eligible Cost: _____

Reimbursement Amount:

Requested Reimbursement: _____

Approved Reimbursement: _____



EXAMPLE PRODUCT INFORMATION

Check valves used must meet the requirements of the City Ordinances and Codes, and MA Uniform State Plumbing Code (248 CMR 10). The following list provides several check valves that are code compliant. This list is not inclusive and other code compliant check valves will be accepted.

RectorSeal

- SS2009PLUS to SS4009V (Floor Drain)

Watts

- BV-203 to BV-206 (Main line Check Valve)

ISP Corporation

- BWV 4 A and BWV 6P (Main line Check Valve)

Legand Valve

- S-640 and S-641 (Main Check Valve)
- S-660 and S-661 (Main Check Valve)

Canplas Industries LTD

- 123281 to 123287 (Main Check Valve)

Zurn Industries

- Z1090 (Main Check Valve)

Spears Manufacturing Company

- S275P to S675P (Main Check Valve with removable flapper)
- S1100-07 (Spring Check set tub check)
- S1500C10, S1500C12 (Swing Check set tub check)